

# Firewood and the Emerald Ash Borer in Indiana DNR Campgrounds

If you plan to camp in Indiana this season, please help us control the spread of the emerald ash borer. You are the best weapon we have against this exotic beetle that has already killed 25 million ash trees in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

## Why Should I Care about the Emerald Ash Borer?

- Ash trees make up about 6% of Indiana forests. There are an estimated 147 million ash trees in rural forests in the state. Several million more ash trees are in urban settings providing shade and cooling for communities. Every single one of these trees is at risk if emerald ash borer moves into an area.
- The native range of ash trees stretches from Michigan to Texas to Florida. Ash is a valuable wood for making baseball bats and tool handles. The estimated potential impact of EAB is a loss of between 0.5% - 2% of the total leaf area and an economic loss of between \$20-60 billion.
- In many campgrounds, ash trees provide valuable shade on hot summer days. For example, at Salamonie Lake in northern Indiana, ash trees provide about 30% of the tree cover in the modern campground. The same shade that we enjoy also cools lakes, streams, and rivers as well as the forest floor, benefiting both plants and animals.
- The adult beetle generally moves no more than 1/2 mile from where it emerges from under the bark of an ash tree. However, a piece of ash firewood with beetle larvae inside it can be transported hundreds of miles from its original location - and can result in a new infestation that can impact forests, campgrounds and communities.

## Why Are You Restricting All Hardwood Firewood and Not Just Ash?

- Although EAB attacks only ash trees, ALL hardwood firewood from Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and quarantined counties in Indiana and Pennsylvania are banned from state parks, state reservoirs and state forests with limited exceptions (see back page.) After wood is cut into firewood, it is difficult and time-consuming to identify individual tree species. Restricting all hardwood firewood makes enforcement more uniform and helps to move campers through the campground registration process more quickly. Restricting all types of hardwood firewood from our properties has the added benefit of protecting our forests from pests that move in other kinds of wood such as gypsy moth (oak trees) and Asian longhorned beetles (maple trees).

## What Can I Do to Help?

- Don't move firewood.** If you live in a county in Indiana with an emerald ash borer quarantine, you cannot bring firewood from that county to any Indiana state park, reservoir, or state forest. Indiana counties with quarantines include Adams, Allen, Brown, DeKalb, Elkhart, Floyd, Hamilton, Huntington, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Marion, Monroe, Noble, Porter, Randolph, St. Joseph, Steuben, Wabash, Wells, White and Whitley. Firewood may not be brought from Michigan, Ohio or Illinois or from parts of Pennsylvania (Butler, Lawrence, Allegheny, Beaver, Mercer Counties), Prince George's County in Maryland, Fayette County, West Virginia and Fairfax County, Virginia. There are some limited exceptions (see back page.)
- Burn all of your firewood when you camp.** Do not leave it for other campers, regardless of its source or species.
- Check for quarantine changes before you pack the camper.** View updated maps of quarantined areas at: [www.emeraldashborer.info/map.cfm](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/map.cfm). If in doubt, call the property you plan to visit before you leave!
- Monitor your ash trees at home.** Check ash trees on your property frequently for symptoms of EAB. infestation. Learn what to look for at [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info) If you discover EAB larvae or adults, contact IDNR's toll free hotline at 1-866-663-9684.

## Portrait of a Killer (of Ash Trees!)

**Color:** Bright metallic green.

**Shape:** Rounded belly and flat back.

**Size:** 1/3 to 1/2 inches long and 1/16th inch wide;  
3 or 4 can fit on a penny.

**Origin:** Native range includes Mongolia, North and South Korea, Japan and northern China. Believed to have been moved to the United States in wood shipping crates made of ash trees native to Asia.

### Life Cycle:

- Adults mate and lays up to 75 eggs under the bark of the ash tree between May-July. They generally move no more than one-half mile to find a mate and lay eggs.
- Eggs hatch into worm-like larvae that feed on the vascular tissue (living layer) of the tree. The tree's vascular tissue conducts water and nutrients throughout the tree. This tissue is destroyed by feeding EAB larvae, causing the tree to die within 1-3 years.
- Larvae spend the winter under the bark of the tree. Ash trees that die and are cut up for firewood may harbor EAB larvae inside; moving this wood to a campground transports the insect to a whole new location.
- Beginning in May, the larvae become adults which emerge through D-shaped exit holes, mate, lay eggs and the cycle begins again.



## Can I Bring Firewood Across Quarantined States Into Indiana?

Firewood can be moved non-stop (except stops for fuel, etc.) ACROSS federally quarantined states (OH, IN, IL, MI) in an enclosed camper or trunk during the summer months (May 1 – Aug. 30) but NOT in the open bed of a pickup truck where EAB could get to it. From Sept. 1 – April 30, firewood can be moved nonstop in any vehicle, open or enclosed. If an individual traveling across states CAMPS overnight in a quarantined state (OH, IL, MI, IN) anytime during the year, the firewood's origin becomes that quarantined state and they cannot bring it into Indiana. The same applies for anyone traveling across Indiana to another state to camp.

## Are There Any Exceptions to this Firewood Policy?

- If you live in a quarantined county in Indiana, you may bring firewood from a non-quarantined Indiana county into the campground. We ask that you bring a receipt or other proof of purchase that clearly indicates where the firewood was purchased. We will accept your word, and we hope you will be honest. All it takes is one piece of firewood with a few unseen EAB larvae to start a new infestation in your favorite campground.
- Pine firewood can be brought into state park, reservoir and forest properties.
- If you live in a quarantined county, you can bring kiln-dried scrap lumber (for example, 2x4's, lumber yard scrap kindling) into the campground ONLY if the kiln dried scrap lumber does NOT have any bark on it. Gate attendants will check any kiln-dried lumber scraps brought by vehicles arriving from quarantined Indiana counties OR from Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia. If any bark is present on the scrap lumber, the firewood will be confiscated.
- You can bring bundled firewood purchased at a commercial store (such as K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Meijer, etc.) in a quarantined county in Indiana or in Ohio, Illinois, Michigan or a quarantined county in Pennsylvania into a campground ONLY if that firewood bears a USDA Stamp indicating the firewood vendor has a compliance agreement. Bundled firewood brought from quarantined Indiana counties or from Ohio, Illinois, Michigan or quarantined areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia or Virginia that does not have a compliance agreement stamp will be confiscated.

Important Note: You cannot take your firewood from Indiana across state lines to campgrounds, either. It is important for you to check with individual state agencies for their policies before you travel.

### How You Can Help

- Don't move firewood.
- Burn all hardwood firewood before you leave your campsite no matter where the wood came from.
- Know if your county is quarantined for EAB before you leave on your camping trip.
- Monitor your ash trees at home for signs and symptoms of EAB.

## Why Do You Confiscate Firewood? Why Can't I Just Burn it At My Site?

When you bring firewood, you may burn part of it one evening and part the next. Potentially infested firewood may be on your site for several days, increasing the possibility that adult emerald ash borers will emerge and begin a new infestation without you or anyone else realizing it. When we confiscate firewood, we burn it quickly. This reduces the possibility that any emerald ash borers can emerge and begin a new infestation in our campground.

## What is the DNR Doing to Control this Insect?

- Gate attendants at all Indiana state parks and reservoirs will confiscate hardwood firewood from quarantined areas with limited exceptions as described above. Confiscated firewood is burned daily.
- Property personnel check empty campsites for leftover firewood which will be removed and burned.
- Moving firewood into Indiana from anywhere in Ohio, Illinois, the lower peninsula of Michigan or the four quarantined counties in Pennsylvania (or vice versa) is a violation of federal law. Moving firewood from quarantined areas in Indiana is a violation of state law. Officers from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) visit Indiana campgrounds to watch for and remove firewood brought from quarantined areas. These officers have the authority to issue fines for violations.
- Concession vendors in Indiana parks and reservoirs sell firewood from non-quarantined areas.
- USDA APHIS and the Indiana DNR conduct surveys in state parks, reservoirs and state forests to detect new finds of EAB. Although it can take several years for EAB infestations to become evident, surveys serve as an early warning system that helps us control the spread of this insect.
- There are no proven control measures in place other than controlling movement of potentially infested lumber and firewood. Research is underway to evaluate possible control measures.



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## Want to Know More about the Emerald Ash Borer?

Visit [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info) or [www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB](http://www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB) or contact Purdue at (765) 494-0822 or ([ellisj@purdue.edu](mailto:ellisj@purdue.edu)).

The mission of Indiana's Division of State Parks \* Reservoirs is to manage & interpret our properties' unique natural, wildlife, & cultural resources using the principles of multiple use & preservation, while sustaining the integrity of these resources for current & future generations.